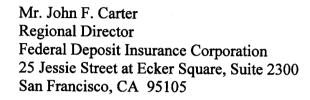
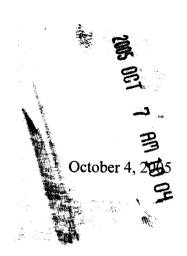
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Kater Chu



Mr. John F. Carter Regional Director Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300 San Francisco, CA 95105

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For the sake of the community banks of our nation and the customers and communities we serve, please do not allow Wal-Mart to get into the banking business. <u>Make a statement for fair competition and consumer choice by denying Wal-Mart's application for deposit insurance</u>.

Larraine M. Daegele

Sincerely,



Mr. John F. Carter Regional Director Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300 San Francisco, CA 95105

> Re: Comments Regarding FDIC Application #20051977; Wal-Mart **Application for Insurance and Industrial Bank Charter**

Dear Mr. Carter:

I am writing to oppose the application of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., for Federal deposit insurance coverage for an ILC charter in Utah. I am a community banker and believe strongly that allowing Wal-Mart to own a bank charter and potentially open branches in its network of stores would do irreparable harm to my community and my institution, and pose a severe systemic risk to our nation's economy.

I am aware that Wal-Mart has stated that it intends to operate a limited ILC charter in Utah. I am skeptical. Their assurances that the operation will remain narrow ring hollow in the context of the company's history and corporate philosophy. This is Wal-Mart's fourth attempt to get into the banking business. Wal-Mart's CEO says he wants to grow the company and provide financial services to its customers. It is not much of a stretch to conclude that somewhere down the road, Wal-Mart will be amending its business plan to allow it to offer a full array of banking services. This must not be allowed to happen.

Wal-Mart has a long history of destabilizing communities by undercutting prices of local merchants and driving them out of business. That is not a theory, it is a fact. For example, when Wal-Mart entered Iowa, 50% of clothing stores, 30% of hardware stores, 42% of variety stores, 26% of department stores, and 25% of building materials stores were driven out of business. Were Iowa consumers well served by eliminating Wal-Mart's competitors and denying consumer choice? I think not. Think of the economic consequences of those statistics, and the impact it had on the state of Iowa! Communities recover from natural disasters; man-made ones are much longer lasting.

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Richard Halmaher Srus.